

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 RSC-01 SCEM-02 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11

EUR-25 NEA-10 DRC-01 /139 W

----- 120890

R 140922Z NOV 73

FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3645

INFO AEC GERMANTOWN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, EAID, TECH, IAEA

SUBJECT: IAEA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 29, 1973

REF: A. HINSON-AMMONS LETTER, 10/3/73

B. HINSON-THOMPSON LETTER, 10/10/73

1. SUMMARY: BOARD OF GOVERNORS' TA COMMITTEE EXPECTED APPROVE PROPOSED TA PROGRAM FOR 1974 AFTER GENERAL COMMENTS, AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS. COMMITTEE WILL NOT RPT NOT CONSIDER GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR TA, AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED. TARGET FOR 1975 AND DG'S STUDY OF FINANACING OF TA FROM REGULAR BUDGET WILL NOT RPT NOT BE BEFORE COMMITTEE WHICH DOES NOT CONSIDER FINANACING, BUT MAY BE SUBJECT OF COMMENT INJECTED BY SOME LDC'S. RECENT EVENTS MAKE IT POSSIBLE THAT POLITICALLY-INSPIRED OBJECTIONS TO ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL MAY BE MORE WIDE-SPREAD AND VOCAL THAN IN PREVIOUS YEARS. MISSION RECOMMENDS US TAKE FAIRLY LOW POSTURE AT MEETING, AND APPROVE PROPOSED PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CONSIDERATION OF TECHNICAL COMMENTS ON INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS TRANSMITTED AT LATER DATE. END SUMMARY.

2. THREE POINTS IN DG'S MEMO ON REGULAR PROGRAM OF TA

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FROM AGENCY'S OWN RESOURCES FOR 1974 (GOV/COM.8/47)

WARRANT COMMENT. PROGRAM BEFORE TAC DEALS ONLY WITH EXPERTS AND EQUIPMENT; PURSUANT FRG REQUEST LAST YEAR (WHICH US ENDORSED), TAC WILL BE PROVIDED WITH INFO PAPER ON OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY AGENCY (GOV/COM.8/48, WHICH EXPECTED TO BE CIRCULATED ON OR BEFORE 11/19). HOWEVER, THIS DATA WILL BE RETROSPECTIVE, UPDATING ANNUAL TA REPORT (GC(XVII)INF/142) THROUGH FIRST 8-9 MONTHS OF 1973, WHILE MISSION UNDERSTOOD THAT REQUESTS LAST YEAR WERE INTENDED TO ELICIT SUCH PROSPECTIVE DATA AS COULD BE ASSEMBLED ON REQUESTS FOR OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE IN COMING YEAR (I.E., PERIOD OF PROGRAM BEFORE COMMITTEE). DG STATES IN PARA 3 THAT RECIPIENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT REQUESTS FOR ALL FORMS OF ASSISTANCE AS "ONE ENTITY", SO AT LEAST SOME PROSPECTIVE INFORMATION COULD APPARENTLY BE MADE AVAILABLE. IF GOV/COM.8/48 DOES IN FACT EMERGE WITH RETROSPECTIVE DATA ONLY, MISSION WILL DISCUSS WITH FRG AND IF LATTER INTENDS REPEAT REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON COMING YEAR DESPITE POSSIBLE INCOMPLETENESS SUCH DATA, MISSION INTENDS SUPPORT THEM IN US STATEMENT.

3. WITH REGARD HEALTH AND SAFETY (PARA 5), MISSION PROPOSES MAKE STATEMENT WELCOMING FACT THAT AGENCY'S HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS WILL BE APPLIED IN PROVISION ALL ASSISTANCE, AND TO SAY US ASSUMES SECRETARIAT WILL GIVE DUE ATTENTION TO FULL AND CORRECT IMPLEMENTATION ALL ASPECTS HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS. MISSION FEELS WE SHOULD REPEAT THIS AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO KEEP PRESSURE ON AGENCY IN THIS FIELD.

4. WITH REGARD OVERALL SIZE OF PROGRAM (PARAS 8-11), MISSION NOTES THAT WHILE OPERATIONAL BUDGET FOR 1974 PROVIDES \$2,445,000 FOR EXPERTS AND EQUIPMENT, PROGRAM BEFORE TAC AMOUNTS TO ONLY \$2,262,700 IN SAME CATEGORIES. FURTHER, ORIGINAL FIGURE BASED ON \$3-MILLION TARGET FOR VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION WHEREAS IT NOW SEEMS POSSIBLE THAT TARGET WILL BE EXCEEDED IN 1974. DOCUMENT DOES NOT DEAL WITH WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF MORE RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE; PRESUMABLY MORE PROJECTS COULD BE LIFTED FROM SCHEDULE C (PROJECTS FOUND TECHNICALLY SOUND BUT REFERRED UNCLASSIFIED

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TO DEVELOPED MEMBERS FOR POSSIBLE BILATERAL ASSISTANCE DUE TO LACK OF AGENCY RESOURCES), BUT THIS NOT SPELLED OUT AND TAC IS NOT CALLED UPON TO APPROVE SCHEDULE C PROJECTS. HOWEVER, THIS MAY ALSO BE DELIBERATE EFFORT

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INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10

RSC-01 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

SCEM-02 DRC-01 /139 W

----- 120813

R 140922Z NOV 73

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ON PART OF SECRETARIAT TO MAXIMIZE RESOURCES THAT CAN BE DEVOTED TO FELLOWSHIPS AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES (WHICH ARE NOT DEALT WITH BY TAC) INDIRECTLY, IN FACE OF USUAL LDC POSITION TYQT EQUIPMENT AND EXPERTS SHOULD TAKE PRIORITY OVER LATTER ACTIVITIES. MISSION WILL DISCUSS WITH SECRETARIAT PRIOR TO COMMITTEE SESSION, AND IF THEIR INTENT IS TO APPLY ANY ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO FELLOWSHIPS AND TRAINING (ACTIVITIES TO WHICH MISSION AND, PRIVATELY, SECRETARIAT ATTACH HIGHEST VALUE IN RETURN FOR ASSISTANCE PROVEDED), MISSION PORPOSES US NOT RPT NOT MENTION THIS POINT, AND URGE OTHER ADVANCED MEMBERS NOT TO MAKE ISSUE OF IT, TO AVOID PROMPTING LDC'S TO REQUEST THAT ANY ADDITIONAL RESOURCES BE SUNK INTO MORE EXPERTS AND EQUIPMENT.

5. MISSION FEELS THAT DISTRIBUTION OF PROJECTS DESCRIBED BOV/COM.8/47/ADD.1 BY GEOGRAPHIC AREA AND SUBJECT IS ADEQUATE AND THAT PROGRAM CONTAINS NO PROBLEMS FOR US. MISSION SPECIFICALLY PROPOSES THAT WE MAKE NO MENTION OF THOSE PROJECTS (REF A) INCLUDED TO UTILIZE RUSSIAN RUBLES AVAILABLE TO AGENCY. WE ASSUME AEC WILL, AS IN PAST, ASSEMBLE DETAILED TECHNICAL COMMENTS ON INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS AND RECOMMEND THAT US APPROVE PROGRAM AS A WHOLE SUBJECT TO DUE CONSIDERATION BY SECRETARIAT OF THESE DETAILED COMMENTS TO BE TRANSMITTED TO IT LATER.

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6. PROGRAM CONTAINS FORU PROJECTS (TOTAL \$60,000) IN ISRAEL, AS WELL AS OTHERS IN VIETNAM AND ROK. USSR WILL PROBABLY MAKE USUAL LOW-KEY OBJECTIONS TO RVN AND ROK PROJECTS, AND WILL PRESUMABLY OBJECT OT ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL AS WELL, AS IN PAST. IN VIEW RECENT EVENTS, MISSION AFRAID THAT CRITICISM OF ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL MAY BE TAKEN UP BY OTHERS (E.G. ALGERIA, ONLY ARABIC-SPEAKING STATE ON TAC THIS YEAR). IF THERE IS TOO MUCH CRITICISM, MISSION SUGGESTS US MAKE BRIEF STATEMENT SPECIFYING THAT ITS APPROVAL OF ENTIRE PROGRAM INCLUDES APPROVAL OF ASSISTANCE REQUESTED BY ISRAEL, AS AGENCY MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING, AND STATING THAT POLITICAL OBJECTIONS SHOULD NOT INTRUDE INTO TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS OF BODIES SUCH AS TAC. MISSION AWARE OF NO OTHER LIKELY OBJECTIONS ON POLITICAL GROUNDS.

7. MISSION HAS RECENTLY LEARNED THAT CONTRARY REF B, SECRETARIAT NOW INTENDS TO SUBMIT PROPOSED REVISIONS OF GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR PROVISION OF TA BY AGENCY TO FEBRUARY BOARD (DOCUMENT TO BE CIRCULATED BEFORE NEW YEAR); THIS IS REVERSAL OF DG'S STATEMENT LAST FEBRUARY THAT THIS ITEM WOULD BE LAID INITIALLY BEFORE TAC AT ITS REGULAR MEETING. PRIMARY REASON FOR THIS CHANGE IS THAT MINOR AND RELATIVELY UNCOTROVERSIAL NATURE OF REVISIONS DO NOT SEEM TO SECRETARIAT TO REQUIRE FULL REGIME OF PRIOR COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION, WHILE SOME IN SECRETARIAT ARE DISTURBED BY THOUGHT THAT INITIAL SUBMISSION TO TAC MIGHT UNDULY STREATCH TAC TERMS OF REFERENCE. MISSION SEES NO PROBLEM FOR US IN THIS ISSUE, WHEREVER AND WHENEVER INITALLY SUBMITTED AND CONSIDERED.

8. POTENTIALLY HEATED ISSUES OF SIZE OF TARGET FOR 1975 AND DG'S STUDY OF FINANCING OF TA FROM REGULAR BUDGET WILL NOT RPT NOT BE BEFORE COMMITTEE, AS ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE HAVE ALWAYS EXCLUDED DISCUSSION OF FINANCING FROM ITS MANDATE. NEVERTHELESS, IT LIKELY THAT SOME LDC'S MAY TAKE OPPORTUNITY TO INJECT OBSERVATIONS ON THESE SUBJECTS, ESPECIALLY NEWER MEMBERS OF BOARD WHO LESS FAMILIAR WITH CUSTOMARY DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUBSTANTIVE (TAC) AND FINANCING (A&B COMMITTEE) ASPECTS OF AGENCY TA PROGRAM. MISSION PROPOSES SIMPLY SET ANY SUCH OBSERVATIONS LAY UNANSWERED UNLESS PRESSED, AT WHICH POINT WE WOULD OBSERVE THAT THEY MORE APPROPRIATELY DISCUSSED IN COMMITTEE WHICH HAS AUTHORITY TO CONSIDER AND ACT ON THEM, I.E., A&B COMMITTEE AT ITS MEETING NEXT SPRING.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973IAEAV09394
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: IAEA VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731135/aaaaazkq.tel
Line Count: 219
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SCI
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. HINSON-AMMONS LETTER, 10/3/73
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Aug-2001 by maustmc>; APPROVED <15 MAR 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IAEA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE NOVEMBER 29, 1973
TAGS: AORG, EAID, TECH, IAEA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005